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SECRETARY JARDINE COMMENDS
BRAVERY OF GAME PROTECTOR

Among the Christmas greetings received by Kenneth F. Roahen, United States game protector of the Bureau of Biological Survey, stationed at Peoria, Ill., was a letter from Secretary of Agriculture Jardine commending his courageous action early in December in arresting two violators of Federal game laws, who, with two others, held guns on him for several minutes while he was attempting to apprehend them. The Secretary wrote as follows:

"The Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey has informed me of the incident in which you were involved on December 6, when in carrying out your enforcement work you encountered four violators of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, who held their guns on you for a considerable period while you were attempting to arrest them. The fact that you finally arrested two of the men while still covered by the gun of one of the violators speaks much for your coolness and tact in a very dangerous situation. I am glad to know also that you deliberately held your hand from killing one of the violators when your own life was in jeopardy. I understand this was not the first time your life has been threatened.

"I want to take the opportunity presented to commend you highly for your behavior under these exasperating and dangerous circumstances and to assure you of my admiration for the courage shown by you."

Mr. Roahen's report on the matter was couched in modest terms, beginning with the statement that "I had a very close call, and you came about as close to having a vacancy in Illinois as could be." He had been patrolling about a week for two men who were shooting ducks from a motor boat, which is in violation of the regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and when he rowed up to them found he was covered with three guns from two boats. There were four of the men, and all seemed well under the influence of liquor. He induced the two men he was after to put down their guns, knowing it would be futile to do any

shooting himself. "The other one never did put his down," reported Roahen, "and I looked at that gun barrel for about twenty minutes, but I did take the two guns away from the men I was after and placed them under arrest, as when this one guy did not shoot immediately, I knew I had him bluffed. I could very easily have shot him and I still feel that I should have done it after I got the other guns away and he was the only one left, still saying he would shoot me. I took a long chance rather than to do it and I was not very sure I was going to get out at all, as in the condition they were in any one could have shot, and you may know they were very close as I ran my boat alongside and held the boats together with my feet."

The courage shown by Protector Roahen is typical of that frequently exhibited by the other 23 game protectors of the Biological Survey, who are stationed at important waterfowl concentration points throughout the country. At least one of these men has lost his life in the performance of duty and others have been shot at and wounded or their lives otherwise threatened.

The men arrested are charged not only with motor-boat shooting, but with violation of the navigation regulations on five separate counts, and a local gun club also is charging them with violation of the Federal injunction against trespass on their grounds. The arrests on these counts will probably have a salutary effect on game-law observance in the locality for some time to come.

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